

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENTS
L. Paul
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Applicant(s): Koh Kimura, et al. **Examiner:** Unassigned
Serial No: 09/975,490 **Art Unit:** 3739
Filed: October 11, 2001 **Docket:** 14991
For: PHYSIOLOGICAL TISSUE CLIPPING APPARATUS, CLIPPING METHOD AND CLIP UNIT MOUNTING METHOD **Dated:** February 13, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Further to an Information Disclosure Statement filed January 25, 2002, applicants herewith submit Concise Explanation of Relevance for the following references as is required under 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(3)(i).

1. German Patent Appln. No. DE 27 35 706 B2, published October 18, 1979:

At a terminal portion of a tube 3, a slider 4 is located which is connected to a grip portion, and also movable in an axial direction of the tube 3. In the slider 4, a gap portion 5 is provided in the axial direction. In the gap portion 5, a stopper 2 urged by a spring 7 is movably provided. A control wire 1 is connected to the stopper 2. When an excessive tension acts on the control wire 1 through the slider 4, the stopper 2 can be moved within the gap portion 5.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on February 13, 2002.

Dated: February 13, 2002

Michelle Mustafa

2. German Patent Appln. No. DE 298 06 611 U1, published August 20, 1998:

In a tubular catheter 1, a diameter-increased portion 15 and a raised portion 16 are provided. A sheath 11 formed of plastic is engaged with the outer periphery of the tubular catheter 1 including the diameter-increased portion 15 and the raised portion 16, and a ring 18 slidable in the axial direction of the tubular catheter 1 is provided outside the sheath 11. The ring 18 can hold the sheath 11 between a finger-put portion 2 and the diameter-increased portion 15.

3. German Patent Appln. No. DE 195 34 323 A1, published March 20, 1997:

In a fixed ring of a surgical clip, a pair of projections 12 are integrally provided oppositely in a fixed ring 10. A pair of arms 6 and 7 have terminal portions joined together at one end portion of each of the arms. The fixed ring 10 is engaged with the pair of arms 6 and 7, and can also be moved in the axial direction. The projections 12 can be held between the pair of arms 6 and 7.

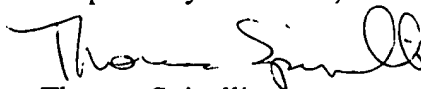
4. Japanese Patent Application. No. 2713754, published October 31, 1997:

This document, page 2, the left column, lines 36-39 discloses that flexible tubes attached to medical instruments are hermetically packed by sterilizable backs formed of transparent and flexible film.

The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account 19-1013 for any additional fees or overpayment.

Consideration of the above-identified references is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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